Application No.: 09/908,993 9 Docket No.: 09614/000L414-US0

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the careful consideration and favorable treatment of the claims in which claims 2, 4, 9, 11, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28, and 29 were indicated as being allowable.

The other claims were rejected on prior art grounds; however, these rejections are now moot in view of the present amendment as described below.

Claim 2 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 1 and based on the Examiner's comments that claim 2 is allowable, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2, as amended, should be passed to issue.

Claims 4-7, 21 and 24-26 should be allowed as depending from what should now be an allowed independent claim 2, as amended.

Claim 9 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 8 and based on the Examiner's comments that claim 9 is allowable, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 as amended, should be passed to issue.

Claims 11-14, 23 and 27-29 should be allowed as depending from what should now be an allowed independent claim 9, as amended.

Claim 17 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 15 and based on the Examiner's comments that claim 17 is allowable, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17, as amended, should be passed to issue.

Claims 16 and 19 should be allowed as depending from what should now be an allowed independent claim 17, as amended.

It is believed that all outstanding issues have been addressed and overcome.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: February 24, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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